

## 1   Claims

2           1. A VoIP (Voice over IP) gateway apparatus connecting  
3   an accommodated device with an IP network, comprising:

4           management means for managing the current number of  
5   simultaneous call connections using each of at least one  
6   telephone number assigned to said VoIP gateway apparatus  
7   itself; and

8           call control means for selecting, in cases in which  
9   a call is received from said accommodated device, among said  
10   at least one telephone number, a telephone number for which  
11   the current number of simultaneous call connections as  
12   managed by said management means is less than a predetermined  
13   simultaneous connection allowance number, and for  
14   transmitting, to said IP network, a call control message  
15   to which the selected telephone number has been given as  
16   a calling number.

1           2. A VoIP gateway apparatus as set forth in claim 1,  
2           wherein said call control means transmits, in cases  
3   in which the call control message from said IP network is  
4   received, the call to said accommodated device in cases in  
5   which the current number of simultaneous call connections,  
6   as managed by said management means for a telephone number  
7   set as a called number in said call control message, is less  
8   than the predetermined simultaneous connection allowance  
9   number.

1           3. A VoIP gateway apparatus as set forth in claim 1  
2 or 2,

3           wherein said management means also manages the current  
4 number of simultaneous call-out connections that is the  
5 current number of simultaneous call connections issued from  
6 said accommodated device, using each of at least one telephone  
7 number assigned to said VoIP gateway apparatus, and

8           wherein said call control means selects, in cases in  
9 which a call is received from said accommodated device, among  
10 said at least one telephone number, a telephone number, for  
11 which the current number of simultaneous call connections  
12 as managed by said management means is less than the  
13 predetermined simultaneous connection allowance number, and  
14 for which the current number simultaneous call connections  
15 is lower than the predetermined call-out simultaneous  
16 connection allowance number, and transmits, to said IP  
17 network, the call control message to which the selected  
18 telephone number has been given as the calling number.

1           4. A call-in and call-out control method in a VoIP (Voice  
2 over IP) gateway apparatus connecting an accommodated device  
3 with an IP network, comprising:

4           the step of managing the current number of simultaneous  
5 call connections using each of at least one telephone number  
6 assigned to said VoIP gateway apparatus itself; and  
7           the step of selecting, in cases in which a call is

8 received from said accommodated device, among said at least  
9 one telephone number, a telephone number, for which the  
10 current number of the managed simultaneous call connections  
11 is less than a predetermined simultaneous connection  
12 allowance number, and transmitting, to said IP network, a  
13 call control message to which the selected telephone number  
14 has been given as a calling number.

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